

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A printer, comprising:
  - a sheet supply unit that accommodates a stack of sheets therein;
  - a pickup roller which contacts and drives one side of the stack of sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit and thereby feeds each sheet toward a printing unit;
  - a cover which covers the other side of the stack of sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit; and
  - a forcible curling unit which forcibly curls the sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit in a sheet width direction,wherein the forcible curling unit reduces curling of the sheets during feeding in a sheet feed direction that is substantially perpendicular to the sheet width direction, ~~and~~  
wherein the forcible curling unit includes a rib which is provided inside the sheet supply unit to protrude toward the cover so that a tip of the rib will press the stack of sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit at its central part in regard to the sheet width ~~direction.~~ direction, and  
wherein the cover is provided with a pressure plate which applies pressure on the sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit toward the pickup roller, the pressure plate being separate from, and attached to the cover in such a manner as to cause the sheets to curl in the sheet width direction, the pressure plate having a width that is substantially same as a width of the sheets.

2. (Currently Amended) A printer, comprising:
  - a sheet supply unit that accommodates a stack of sheets therein;

a pickup roller which contacts and drives one side of the stack of sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit and thereby feeds each sheet toward a printing unit;  
a cover which covers the other side of the stack of sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit; and  
a forcible curling unit which forcibly curls the sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit in a sheet width direction,

wherein the forcible curling unit includes a pressure plate and ribs, the pressure plate having a width that is substantially same as a width of the sheets, the ribs which are being provided to the cover to protrude toward the pickup roller so that tips of the ribs will press—press, via the pressure plate, the stack of sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit at both sides in regard to the sheet width direction—direction so as to cause the sheets to curl in the sheet width direction.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A printer, comprising:

a sheet supply unit that accommodates a stack of sheets therein;  
a pickup roller which contacts and drives one side of the stack of sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit and thereby feeds each sheet toward a printing unit;  
a cover which covers the other side of the stack of sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit; and  
a forcible curling unit which forcibly curls the sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit in a sheet width direction,

wherein the cover is provided with pressing means which applies pressure on the sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit toward the pickup roller, the pressing means being separate from, and attached to the cover, the pressing means having a width that

is substantially same as a width of the sheets and being disposed in such a manner as to cause the sheets to curl in the sheet width direction; and

wherein the forcible curling unit includes ribs which are provided to the pressing means to protrude toward the pickup roller so that tips of the ribs are capable of pressing the stack of sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit at both sides in regard to the sheet width direction.

5. (Previously Presented) The printer according to claim 1, wherein the sheets are accommodated in the sheet supply unit in the form of a sheet package including a package member containing the sheets.

6. (Currently Amended) A printer, comprising:  
a sheet supply unit that accommodates a stack of sheets therein;  
a pickup roller which contacts and drives one side of the stack of sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit and thereby feeds each sheet toward a printing unit;  
a sheet separation unit provided on a downstream side of the sheet supply unit in a sheet feed direction; and  
a forcible curling unit which forcibly curls the sheets in a sheet width direction at a position immediately before the sheet separation unit,

wherein the forcible curling unit reduces curling of the sheets during feeding in a sheet feed direction that is substantially perpendicular to the sheet width direction, and

wherein the forcible curling unit includes a rib which is provided inside the sheet supply unit to protrude ~~toward the~~ toward a cover so that a tip of the rib ~~will press~~ presses the stack of sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit at its central part in regard to the sheet width ~~direction~~ direction, and

wherein the cover is provided with a pressure plate which applies pressure on the sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit toward the pickup roller, the pressure plate

being disposed in such a manner as to cause the sheets to curl in the sheet width direction, the pressure plate having a width that is substantially same as a width of the sheets.

7. (Currently Amended) A sheet feeding mechanism, comprising:

- a sheet supply unit that accommodates a stack of sheets therein;
- a pickup roller which contacts and drives one side of the stack of sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit and thereby feeds each sheet toward a printing unit;
- a sheet separation unit placed on a downstream side of the sheet supply unit in a sheet feed direction; and
- a forcible curling unit which forcibly curls the sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit in a sheet width direction,

wherein the forcible curling unit reduces curling of the sheets during feeding in a sheet feed direction that is substantially perpendicular to the sheet width direction, ~~and~~

wherein the forcible curling unit includes a rib which is provided inside the sheet supply unit to protrude ~~toward the~~ toward a cover so that a tip of the rib ~~will press~~ presses the stack of sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit at its central part in regard to the sheet width ~~direction.~~ direction, and

wherein the cover is provided with a pressure plate which applies pressure on the sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit toward the pickup roller, the pressure plate being separate from, and attached to the cover in such a manner as to cause the sheets to curl in the sheet width direction, the pressure plate having a width that is substantially same as a width of the sheets.

8. (Currently Amended) The printer according to claim 1,

~~wherein the cover is provided with pressure plate which applies pressure on the sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit toward the pickup roller, and~~

wherein the forcible curling unit includes ribs which are provided to the pressure plate to protrude toward the pickup roller so that tips of the ribs are capable of pressing the stack of sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit at both sides in regard to the sheet width direction.

9. (New) The printer according to claim 1, the sheets having a tendency of curling along a sheet length direction when not being pressed by the forcible curling unit.